

App. No. 10/661,312

Reply to final Office Action of April 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. Summary of the Amendment**

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated April 27, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration are courteously requested. By way of the present amendment, claims 11, 23, and 28 are amended. Further, claims 24 and 33 are canceled, with the features of claim 24 being incorporated into independent claim 23, and the features of claim 33 being incorporated into independent claim 11. Thus, claims 1 to 23, and 25 to 32 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration, with claims 1, 11, 17, 23, and 28 being independent claims.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 1 to 10, and 28 to 32 are allowed, and that claims 16, 24, 26 to 27, and 33 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for a thorough examination of these claims.

C. Objections to the Claims

Although there are not any objections to the claims set forth in the office action, during a telephone conference on July 11, 2005 the examiner pointed out that claim 28 included an informality. The current amendment corrects this informality by rewriting "Titanium" as "titanium."

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D. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11 to 13, 17 to 18, and 21 to 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,585,483 ("Feest") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,042,963 ("Sorenson"). Claims 14 to 15, 19, 20, 23, and 25 are rejected as being unpatentable over Feest in view of Sorenson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,006,603 ("Caruso"), or U.S. Patent No. 4,565,490 ("Rice"), depending on the particular claim being rejected. These rejections are respectfully traversed, at least in view of the present amendment.

Regarding independent claim 11, the current amendment incorporates the features of claim 33 into claim 11. The Examiner indicated that claim 33 is allowable in the final action. Thus, all of claims 11 to 16 should be allowed.

Regarding independent claim 17, the previous amendment moved the term "titanium" from the preamble to the claim body. More particularly, the amended claim 17 recites that the entire unitary inlet structure, including the stator, is manufactured from a titanium alloy. Feest fails to teach or suggest that any part of the inlet body is manufactured from a titanium alloy. This deficiency is further evidenced by the Examiner's comment in the final action that claim 16, reciting a titanium alloy, is allowable. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 17, and claims 18 to 22 depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claim 23, the current amendment incorporates the features of claim 24 into claim 23. The Examiner indicated that claim 24 is allowable in the final action. Thus, all of claims 23, and 25 to 27 should be allowed.

E. Conclusion

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this

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application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at the below-listed telephone number.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11 July, 2005

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